

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO MIKE GLOVER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of one of the preeminent voices of Iowa journalism. Mike Glover, whose byline has accompanied countless Associated Press reports from the Iowa Capitol for three decades, announced this week that he's retiring in May.

Mr. Glover's work has appeared on the front pages of newspapers across Iowa and throughout the country, offering concise and timely news and analysis on some of the biggest political stories of our time. He's covered nearly every major presidential contender to pass through Iowa before the state's first-in-the-nation caucuses. And while the Iowa General Assembly is in session, his presence in the halls of the Statehouse in Des Moines seems nearly ubiquitous as he tracks down the news of the day.

Mr. Glover began his career working for newspapers in Fort Dodge, Iowa, and Bloomington, Illinois, before he started at the Associated Press, where he would spend the next 32 years. He currently lives in Windsor Heights with his wife, Betty, who serves on the Windsor Heights City Council. Throughout Iowa's political and journalistic circles, he's earned a reputation for doggedly pursuing the truth and reporting the facts in a no-nonsense fashion.

To my great pleasure—and occasionally to my consternation—Mr. Glover has put me in the crosshairs of his tough-but-fair questioning on numerous occasions during my appearances on Iowa Press, a weekly news and current events program on Iowa Public Television. I know Mr. Glover to be a consummate professional and a true newsman in every sense of the word.

Mr. Speaker, in an increasingly chaotic and fractured media environment, Mr. Glover's career is a shining example of the importance of objective and factual reporting, something I know every member of this chamber respects and appreciates. Please join me in congratulating Mike Glover on his illustrious career and wishing him a happy retirement.

ST. GEORGE'S CARPATHO-RUSSIAN ORTHODOX GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the parishioners of St. George's Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church in Taylor, Pennsylvania, who are celebrating the church's 75th anniversary.

In 1937, immigrants from Eastern Europe would labor for long hours in the coal mines

of Northeastern Pennsylvania, then report to the site of a future church. There, they would help excavate and construct the building. Many parishioners generously mortgaged their homes to provide collateral for the project. On October 3, 1937, the cornerstone was dedicated, and St. George's Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Greek Church began its mission of glorifying God.

In 1954, a tragic gas explosion destroyed the church hall and tested the parish's resiliency. Officers and trustees immediately established plans to rebuild, and two months later, St. George's Social Club rooms were completely rebuilt and reopened. Members of the congregation would be challenged again in 1975, as a mine subsidence threatened the church and forced the congregation to move. Four years later, St. George's found its permanent home on Keyser Avenue near Scranton. This modern church complex, which can hold 350 of the faithful, is among the most beautiful in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Today, the dedicated parishioners of St. George's continue the virtuous work started by their forbears 75 years ago. This generation's goal is to continue the work done by past generations. The present church is the result of faithfulness to the teachings, customs, and traditions of immigrants from Eastern Europe. With the guidance of their present pastor, Father Mark Leasure, the church welcomes all families as they seek to explore the rich Christian faith.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my most sincere congratulations and deepest respect to the parishioners of St. George's Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of Taylor, Pennsylvania, and I wish them many years of successful, faithful future service.

TRIBUTE TO BEXTON PLACE AND THE RETIREMENT HOUSING FOUNDATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Bexton Place Apartments in my district in San Antonio. Bexton Place is a member of the Retirement Housing Foundation, and they will join in celebrating the foundation's fifty years of service to the community on March 13, 2012.

The Retirement Housing Foundation is a non-profit organization of 159 communities in 24 States, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, providing housing and services to more than 17,000 older adults, low-income families, and persons with disabilities.

Throughout the past fifty years the foundation has fostered an environment in which team members work to make life better for thousands of San Antonians. This pinnacle achievement speaks to both the past laurels

and future service of Bexton Place. Bexton Place strives to provide all persons with quality, affordable housing so that San Antonio families do not have to sacrifice paying the rent for other basic necessities.

The noble mission of the Retirement Housing Foundation is as important today as it was fifty years ago. Its impact on our communities cannot be overstated. I would again ask you to congratulate Bexton Place and the Retirement Housing Foundation on their fifty years of ensuring that low-income families and individuals have access to quality housing.

RECOGNIZING STEVEN O'CONNOR

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steven O'Connor of Milford, New Hampshire, a remarkable young man who, in June of 2010, demonstrated immense bravery and courage in order to save his younger sister's life.

Steven, who was a Webelo Cub Scout at the time, had just recently learned how to swim when he was celebrating Father's Day at his grandparents' house with his family. Mackenzie O'Connor, Steven's younger sister, had slipped underwater and was struggling to stay afloat when Steven leaped into action. Before any of the adults had time to react to Mackenzie's struggles, Steven had jumped into the pool and pulled his younger sister to safety.

Steven's selfless and heroic actions are commendable, and I am incredibly impressed by this young man's quick thinking and fearless instincts. Steven will be awarded with the Boy Scouts of America's Meritorious Action Award this Saturday in Hollis, New Hampshire, an award that is truly well-deserved.

Steven's parents, grandparents, sister, and extended family, as well as his friends and teachers, must be extremely proud of his bravery, and I join the people of Milford, and indeed the entire Granite State, in congratulating Steven on a job well done. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors, particularly as he seeks to become an Eagle Scout.

PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE COMMUNITY HONORS RETIRING PRESIDENT DR. ARLIN HORTON

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary career of a great leader, scholar and Pensacola Christian College's Founder and President, Dr. Arlin Horton. After 38 years of exceptional

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

leadership at Pensacola Christian College and nearly 60 years at Pensacola C Academy, we celebrate Dr. Horton's retirement and reflect back on a career of distinguished accomplishments.

As the Founder of my alma mater, Pensacola Christian College, Dr. Horton created one of the finest institutions of higher learning in America—and a ministry serving God's work with leadership, responsibility and faith. After he and his wife Beka graduated from college in 1951, they came to Pensacola to start this ministry. And their success was extraordinary.

In 1954, they opened the doors to Pensacola Christian School—which began with only 35 students—and since 1970, over 2,000 students from kindergarten through twelfth grade have received an education at Pensacola Christian School. With over 93,000 Christian school principals and teachers attending clinics in Pensacola, the work President Horton and his wife began paved the way for generations of students, teachers and leaders.

Years later, Dr. Horton's influence expanded from the Christian School to a broad network of Christian radio stations all across the country. He also began publishing unique curriculums for Christian Schools, which revolutionized Christian education in America. Today, over 10,000 Christian schools and daycares use their books.

Most notably thought, in 1974, Dr. Horton founded Pensacola Christian College, from which I was honored to receive my Bachelor's Degree in 1990. Beginning with only 100 students in the fall of 1974, Pensacola Christian College now recognizes over 16,600 alumni all over the world. To say that his influence was incalculable is an understatement.

So today I join Dr. Arlin and Beka Horton in celebrating a long life of dedication to education, devotion to Christ, and commitment to making a difference in the lives of others. While Dr. Horton's retirement is sad for the PCC community, we will all—PCC students and alumni alike—continue to carry his legacy with us forever. He taught us: "To God be the Glory!"—and this we will most certainly remember.

CONGRATULATING THE DILLARD HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKET- BALL TEAM ON THEIR THIRD CONSECUTIVE STATE TITLE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lady Panthers girls' basketball team of Dillard High School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on their recent state championship. Once again, under the inspiring leadership of Coach Marcia Pinder, the women's varsity basketball team won the Class 5A state title. The game was hard fought on both sides but even under intense pressure, the women of Dillard High persevered to defeat St. Johns Bartram Trail. With staunch defense and discipline, this team made history by clinching their third consecutive state title and seventh title overall.

Capping off a 26–4 season, the title recently secured by the Dillard team is truly special. This third consecutive state title is a record for Dillard High, and makes their winning streak the second longest in Broward history and one title away from tying the County record of four consecutive titles. Furthermore, with their seventh state championship overall, the Lady Panthers hold the record for the most titles held by any girls' basketball program in Broward County, and makes them the second most winningest team in the State. Furthermore, they are just one championship behind the current record holders Jacksonville Ribault.

It should also be noted that all seven championships have come under the leadership of Coach Marcia Pinder, whose 804–175 record makes her the all-time winningest basketball coach overall in Florida's history. Following this recent championship, Coach Pinder was named the 2012 Russell Athletic/Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) National High School Coach of the Year. She will be honored at the 2012 WBCA High School All-American Game that is played in conjunction with the NCAA Women's Final Four in Denver, Colorado on March 31, 2012.

I would like to take the time to honor each player and coach who, along with Coach Pinder, made this record-setting win possible. The Championship Lady Panthers are: LaQuacious Adams, Alliyah Anderson, Shatoria Baker, Demetria Brown, Jo' Coretah Clayton, Brianna Green, Amber Hanna, Dominique Harris, Kareese Johnson, Jessica Jones, Macy Keen, Courtney Parson, Tiara Walker, and Kayla Wright. The Lady Panthers and Coach Pinder and their championship season were also supported by assistant coaches: George Adams, Brandon Adams, Tonia Adams, Tania Miller, Evelyn Powers, Enewetok Ramsey, and Chanell Washington. I would also like to recognize Dillard High Principal Casandra D. Robinson and Athletic Director Tracie Latimer, without whom the girls' basketball program would not be given the support it rightly deserves.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of the Lady Panthers, Coach Pinder, and all of their supporters who every year continue to push the bounds for what is possible within their sport. I am truly honored to represent such gracious sportswomen, and look forward to next season where I hope to see the Lady Panthers tie both the Broward County's record for most consecutive championships and Florida's record for most titles overall.

MR. FRED DESANTO

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Fred DeSanto, who will be recognized as the 2011 recipient of the Joseph F. Saporito Lifetime of Service Award presented by the Pittston Dispatch in Pittston, Pennsylvania. Mr. DeSanto's selfless dedication to the service of others makes him the ideal recipient of an award that highlights the legacy of a truly great individual, Joseph F. Saporito.

Mr. DeSanto has dedicated countless hours over four decades to Little League Baseball, providing our youth with a healthy, safe, and enjoyable summer pastime. Mr. DeSanto built the Pittston Township Little League from the ground up, beginning his decades of service at the age of 24.

Mr. DeSanto, along with 12 to 15 other men, formed the league in 1975 with a vision and passion for service; without one cent of grant money. Each year, he and other volunteers signed for a \$15,000 bank loan to improve the league. Additionally, 11 years after its founding, the Pittston Township Little League was selected to host Pennsylvania's all-star tournament.

In 1995, District 31 recognized Mr. DeSanto's hard work by naming him District 31 Administrator. Under his leadership, District 31 established stronger rules and regulations that enhanced the safety of our youth. Furthermore, Mr. DeSanto advocated for background checks for league volunteers, and he created a GPS program so 9–1–1 centers had the exact latitude and longitude of all 131 fields within the district.

Mr. Speaker, by founding the Pittston Township Little League, Fred DeSanto created and worked to improve a place of fun, health, and camaraderie for the youth in Pennsylvania's 11th District. Mr. DeSanto is to be commended for his 37 years of service to our community.

THE RETIREMENT OF SHERIFF FRANK CANTHEY

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in honor of my dear friend Frank Canthey, who after 11 years of service will be retiring from his role as Sheriff of Mayes County, Oklahoma.

Frank has been in law enforcement since 1973, when he started taking criminal justice classes while working at the Contra Costa County Campus Police Department in California. In 1979, he moved to Oklahoma and has since served on the force in both Delaware and Mayes Counties.

After retiring from the Police Department, Canthey was elected Sheriff of Mayes County and took office in 2001. He has served Oklahoma honorably and kept Mayes County safe over the past 11 years. As a member of the Executive Board of the Oklahoma Sheriff's Association, Frank has worked to support public safety through training, education and the promotion of positive interaction among all criminal justice agencies across the state.

I had the honor of getting to know Canthey during my first election, and I enjoy seeing him perform in his famous band, the Law Dawgs.

Frank has always been dedicated to his wife, Linda, and their two sons Jason and Jeff. It is because of this commitment that he has chosen to retire. I wish Frank the best of luck in his endeavors, and thank him for his tireless commitment to Oklahoma.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF PETTY
OFFICER FERNANDO JORGE, USCG

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Fernando Jorge, age 39, of Buena Park, California and to honor his service to our country.

CPO Jorge was one of four U.S. Coast Guard crewmen aboard a MH-65C Dolphin helicopter when it crashed into Mobile Bay on February 28, 2012, during an evening training mission. The accident claimed the lives of each of the crew.

CPO Jorge, a 20-year Coast Guard veteran and rescue swimmer, was stationed at the Aviation Training Center in Mobile, Alabama at the time of the accident.

A devoted professional who dedicated his life to saving others, CPO Jorge was accustomed to the challenges of the sea. According to the Mobile Press-Register, CPO Jorge was featured on the History Channel's "Extreme Search and Rescue" program in 2004.

CPO Jorge and his fellow crewmen of CG-6535 each shared a love of service and a dedication to saving lives. The Coast Guard is a vital protector for our Nation's coastal communities. We can never thank them enough for their commitment to our country.

Mobile is a Coast Guard city and we suffer the loss of CPO Jorge as one of our own. We grieve with his family and we stand with them and the entire United States Coast Guard family.

To quote the words of the Coast Guard hymn,

Eternal Father, Lord of hosts,
Watch o'er the men who guard our coasts.
Protect them from the raging seas
And give them light and life and peace.
Grant them from Thy great throne above
The shield and shelter of Thy love.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and a grateful Nation, I offer condolences to CPO Jorge's family and many friends. You are each in our thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO RANDY AND SHARI
PULMAN OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Randy and Shari Pulman of San Antonio on being honored at the 2012 Congregation Agudas Achim's Annual Gala and Honors Evening.

Over the years, they have been shining examples for our community and have left an indelible mark on the well-being and development of countless San Antonians. Shari and Randy have set a high standard of leadership through their dedication to Agudas Achim Congregation and the entire community of San Antonio.

Since 1995, Mr. Pulman has served on the Agudas Achim's Board of Trustees, most recently serving as Vice President-Finance Administration and as Treasurer of Agudas

Achim's Endowment Fund Board of Directors. Mr. Pulman's civic engagement is not limited to the Agudas Achim congregation, but includes various leadership roles at Camp Young Judea, the Golden Manor Foundation, and Israel Bonds. Mrs. Pulman's active leadership within the community is evident through her involvement as Vice President of Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services, President of the Campus Board of Directors of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community, and President of the Barshop JCC. Mrs. Pulman was also recognized with the Jewish Federation of San Antonio's Sylvia F. and Harry Sugarman Young Leadership Award in 1998 for her efforts on their Board of Directors. Additionally, Shari and Randy Pulman both hold leadership positions within the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

During the course of just a few years, their tireless support of Israel and the work they have done for Congregation Agudas Achim have been an inspiration to all those around them and a model for generations to follow. I would again ask you to congratulate Shari and Randy Pulman on being honored at the 2012 Congregation Agudas Achim's Annual Gala and Honors evening.

HONORING THE PEOPLE OF INDI-
ANA IN THE AFTERMATH OF
DEADLY TORNADOES

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I've never been prouder to call southern Indiana home.

Late Friday afternoon in our part of America, a disaster brought neighbors together, turned strangers into friends, and reminded us all of what it means to be part of a community.

Over the course of several hours, fierce winds, softball-sized hail, and deadly tornadoes descended upon southern Indiana communities, leaving behind a 50-mile path of destruction from New Pekin to Chelsea and beyond.

Our people are still assessing the costs, but we know this much: at least 13 Hoosiers have died; scores have lost their homes and businesses; and citizens across the region have suffered untold damage to their personal and public property.

As hard as it is to imagine, the tragedy might have been worse were it not for the bravery, and resilience, of rank-and-file Hoosiers.

Our firemen, policemen, EMTs, and local officials deserve our thanks. Those who serve in Indiana's National Guard, our State Police, and our Department of Homeland Security stepped up, too. From the initial response through the ongoing efforts today, their service has been exemplary.

But it has been concerned citizens—so-called ordinary Americans—who have restored a measure of stability to a region pummeled by forces beyond our control.

There was the bus driver in Henryville who, in the nick of time, rushed dozens of children back to school to protect them from the approaching twister.

There were the EMTs off Interstate 65 who saw a woman thrown from her car, and saved her from being pummeled by hail by dragging a large metal sign across the road and holding it over her. They likely saved her life.

There is Stephanie Decker, a Marysville mother who lost parts of both legs but courageously saved the lives of her two children by covering them with her body as a tornado crushed their home on top of them. We are pulling for you and your family, Stephanie.

There were parents and friends and even strangers across southern Indiana who, as danger approached, took a moment to extend a hand to others, and said, "Come inside, we'll make room."

After the storms left their mark, Hoosiers immediately turned to accounting for loved ones and comforting neighbors.

The damage was, and is, severe. One tornado—by some accounts a half-mile wide—carved a clear path through southern Indiana, ripping trees out of the earth, hurling automobiles and combines long distances, severing power lines, and decimating countless homes and businesses.

Here again, Hoosiers did not sit around and wait for others to help us out. We got to work.

Over the weekend, I spent time surveying the damage and meeting with those who lost the most. Everywhere I visited, I met citizens wearing boots and work gloves who were busily beginning to sort through piles of rubble. I met others who had fired up their chainsaws and were clearing debris from roadways. I saw clusters of cars and pick-up trucks parked outside homes that were hit hardest.

In the aftermath of such a tragedy, one would be forgiven for asking, "Why me?" But I never heard it.

Instead, time and again I heard Hoosiers sympathize with those who lost more than they. And more than one person told me that, in the end, stuff isn't all that important—it's people that are important. And I heard sincere, caring people ask their neighbors, "How can I help?"

At one stop, I met a young couple from Jeffersonville—only 15 miles away—who offered me a drink of water. Their city didn't suffer much damage, so they loaded up their cars with bottled water and granola bars, looking for others who needed a hand.

In Henryville, a pizza shop was mostly destroyed, except for the freezer. The couple who owned it, rather than worrying about the loss of their business, asked officials how they could donate food from the freezer to those who needed it most.

In Marysville, the local Christian Church remains intact, but little else. Pastor Bob Priest told me their decades-old building is no longer structurally sound, but the congregation has never been stronger. As congregants were busy making repairs, I noticed the stained glass window above the church doorway was undamaged. It reads, "In Memory of the Willing Workers."

The local Red Cross chapter opened an overnight shelter, but in the first weekend no one checked in. Instead, friends shared their homes; churches opened their doors . . . everyone, it seems, could count on someone.

For those of us who have seen the scale and scope of destruction up close, we know the path back will not be easy. But we will fix all that Mother Nature broke.

Government at all levels will, and must, be there to help—from local authorities, to the

State of Indiana, to our congressional offices. My staff and I, in particular, are eager to connect our constituents to whatever federal services, and funds, might help them get their lives back on track.

But make no mistake: it will be the people of Indiana—the people of tight-knit communities like Henryville, Marysville, Chelsea, and New Pekin—who will rebuild broken lives.

During these tough times, Hoosiers are reminding us what it means to be a community of citizens—One Nation, Under God, indivisible, come what may. That sense of community has always bound Americans in tough times, and it will get us through this tragedy as well.

This thought especially struck home with me as I visited Henryville High School. The roof of the gymnasium was torn off, some of the walls had collapsed, and the bleachers were demolished. But hanging in the rafters, waving in the breeze, still hung the American flag unscathed.

May God be with those Americans who are putting their lives back together. We are praying for you, and here for you.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SGT. JUSTIN AVERY EVERETT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today with my colleagues, Mr. NUNES and Mr. DENHAM, to honor the life of United States Marine Sgt. Justin Avery Everett. Sergeant Everett passed away Wednesday, February 22, 2012 in a tragic helicopter accident during a night training exercise near Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma, Arizona. He was 33 years old. Sergeant Everett's patriotism, bravery, and selfless service to his country will ensure that his legacy lives on for years to come.

A proud son of California's San Joaquin Valley, Sergeant Everett was born in Chowchilla, California to James and Patsy Everett. Sergeant Everett grew up in Fresno, California with his siblings: James, Jason and Jeremy. He graduated from Reedley High School in 1996 where he won numerous wrestling medals. After high school Sergeant Everett served as a youth group leader at the Church of God Prophecy in Fresno. His commitment to service was evident as a young man. He exemplified a selfless, noble nature and a commitment to a cause greater than his own.

Following the terrorist attacks of September 11th, Sergeant Everett joined the United States Marine Corps in 2002. During his 10 year service, he was deployed on two tours of duty in Iraq. He served as a Pilot and a Crew Chief with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing aboard a UH-1Y Huey. At the time of his death, Sergeant Everett was preparing for a deployment to Afghanistan in July 2012.

In addition to his legacy as a U.S. Marine, Sergeant Everett will be remembered as a loving son, brother, husband, father, and friend. He is survived by his parents and his brothers, who are also helicopter pilots. Shortly before his death, Sergeant Everett and his wife, Holly, celebrated their 11th wedding anniversary.

The couple have two children, a 5-year-old daughter and a 2-year-old son.

Mr. Speaker, we offer our most heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to Sergeant Everett's loved ones. I ask my colleagues to join Mr. NUNES, Mr. DENHAM, and me in honoring his courageous and heroic service in the United States Marine Corps. His dedication to preserving freedom and democracy will be remembered for generations to come.

TESTIMONY FROM BRIAN AHO,
PASSENGER ABOARD THE
"COSTA CONCORDIA" CRUISE
LINER

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter sworn testimony into the record from Brian Aho, whose family was among the thousands who experienced the panic and confusion during the evacuation of the *Costa Concordia* class cruise ship on January 13, 2012. Mr. Aho and his family have taken multiple cruise vacations and are familiar with many of the safety procedures that are necessary aboard these large ships. Mr. Aho details the failure of safety measures aboard the *Costa Concordia*, the lack of guidance from the ship's crew, and the absence of accountability demonstrated by the ship's captain. This testimony will hopefully lead to new rules and safety guidelines that can help prevent future catastrophes.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE: Thank you for inviting me to testify today. My name is Brian Aho. My wife, Joan Fleser, my daughter, Alana, and I set sail from the Port of Rome (Civitavecchia) on January 13, 2012, aboard the *Concordia* cruise liner operated by Costa Crociere and its parent company, Carnival Corporation.

Though we have been on many cruise vacations with several cruise lines, this was our first European cruise and our first time sailing with Costa. We chose this particular ship and itinerary for our 20th anniversary cruise because of the opportunity to visit many ports in several countries.

As experienced cruise passengers, we have fallen into a particular embarkation pattern. Once aboard we locate our stateroom, unpack our luggage (if available) and take a walking tour of the ship. We investigate the theater, the pools, the dining-room to which we have been assigned and the safety features. We made note that our stateroom was on Deck #2 forward, our dining room was on Deck #3 aft, and lifeboat access was on Deck #4.

After our investigation, we went back to our stateroom to prepare for a late-seating (9 p.m.) dinner. Once seated—while our appetizers were being served—the ship began to shudder. The rhythmic vibration quickly became worse and, after a tremendous groan and crash, the ship began to list severely. People were falling, glasses and plates were sliding off the tables and smashing, and people were screaming. The panic got worse when the lights failed.

My family formed a three-link chain and we worked our way through the fallen debris toward an outboard gangway leading up to

Deck #4 and the lifeboats. The central (Main) entrance to the dining room was blocked with panicking passengers and crew. The only crew member offering guidance was a woman in a showgirl-style gown near the gangway who was showing the passengers the way to the lifeboats.

Once on Deck #4, people were panicking and fighting over lifejackets. Once I found and delivered one to my wife, another woman damaged it while tearing it out of her arms. The announcements indicated that it was an electrical problem with the generators and everything was under control. Evidence indicates that some passengers were instructed by crew to return to their cabins. As these announcements were made, the ship was listing more and sinking deeper. Immediately after a similar announcement, we heard the abandon ship signal (six short signals and one long signal). Few people knew what it meant as there was no verbal abandon ship announcement.

When a crewmember finally appeared, the panicking passengers pushed their way toward the boat. My wife had to grab my daughter and pull her into the boat as a cowardly man tried to push her out of the way. Once the boat was filled, the crewman had trouble readying and releasing the boat. After much hammering noise, the boat swung away from the *Concordia*. We were showered with white paint chips as if this boat had not been released since the gear had been painted over. After being lowered, the crew had difficulty disconnecting the boat from the davits. Once disconnected, it was clear that the crew did not know how to pilot the lifeboat effectively. It kept colliding with other boats and, eventually, the pier.

There were NO Costa representatives—neither officers nor crew—on the pier to provide guidance to the passengers. The only help we received was from the residents of the island.

As experienced cruise vacation passengers, we have recognized significant problems that, in our opinion, made a terrible situation even worse:

There were no safety drills or instructions distributed to passengers before sailing out into the open Mediterranean Sea.

The public address announcements provided false information.

The manning and deployment of the lifeboats was delayed though the ship was in imminent danger.

The crew was unable to instruct passengers during an emergency.

The crew was unable to launch and operate the lifeboats effectively.

According to reports, the captain and senior staff abandoned the ship with passengers still aboard the capsizing vessel. There was no one aboard to coordinate the evacuation.

This accident was not caused solely by the actions of a single individual. It has been alleged that Costa and its parent corporation, Carnival, allowed Captain Schettino to divert from the assigned course on previous voyages. Clearly, this course deviation was not due to climatic or safety concerns. It is our opinion that—with today's technology—central management of the cruise line must have been able to locate the position of—and track the progress of—a massive liner like the *Concordia*. Either they were aware of its deviation from the pre-determined course and sanctioned it, or they were ill-equipped to manage the operation of this and perhaps other vessels.

The courts will determine who or what organization is to blame for the tragic loss of life in January of 2012 off the coast of Tuscany.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION AND IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization and Improvement Act with my colleague TIM HOLDEN from Pennsylvania.

The Chesapeake Bay, the largest estuary in the U.S., is an incredibly complex ecosystem that includes important habitats and is a cherished part of our American heritage. The Bay Watershed includes all types of land uses, from intensely urban areas, spread out suburban development and diverse agricultural practices.

I have worked hard during past negotiations on the Farm Bill to ensure that critical resources are in place to help restore the Bay. While the goal from all involved is the same, restoring the health and vitality of the Bay, the path to that health and vitality is being strongly debated. It is a clear choice, overregulation and intrusion into the lives and livelihoods of those who choose to make the Bay watershed their home, or commonsense incentive-based efforts that help restore and protect our natural resources.

Unfortunately, proposals like the Presidential Executive Order and the Environmental Protection Agency's Total Maximum Daily Load, TMDL, forces more mandates and overzealous regulations on all of those who live, work, and farm in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The EPA's TMDL is a power grab that sets strict limits on the amount of nutrients discharged into the Chesapeake Bay and each of its tributaries by different types of sources. These limits will dramatically restrict land usages for everyone who lives and works in the Watershed. Although the Clean Water Act requires the EPA to establish a TMDL, the power is currently reserved to the states to determine how to improve water quality, including determining nutrient reduction allocations among different types of point and non-point sources. In the proposed TMDL, the EPA has exceeded its authority in the Clean Water Act by setting specific nutrient reduction allocations by sector, a power currently reserved to the states.

Beyond the fact that the EPA lacks the authority in the Clean Water Act to take the majority of the actions that it is taking, I have serious concerns about this approach to Bay restoration. EPA has increased its federal actions in the Watershed while relying on modeling data that does not adequately include nutrient reductions that have been made in the Watershed to guide its decisions. This raises serious concerns about the ability of the agency to measure and assess restoration efforts. Further, it is clear by reports of the communities and industries affected, that these new regulations will be devastating during our current economic downturn. This will result in many billions of dollars in economic losses to states, cities and towns, farms and other businesses large and small.

This strategy limits economic growth and unfairly over regulates our local economies. Mr. HOLDEN and I recognized that we must

form a proposal that does not pit the health of the bay against the strength and vitality of our local communities and that is why we rise today to introduce the Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization and Improvement Act

Instead of overregulation and intrusion into the lives and livelihoods of those who choose to make the Bay Watershed their home, our legislation allows states and communities more flexibility in meeting water quality goals so that we can help restore and protect our natural resources. Our bill sets up new programs to give farmers, homebuilders, and localities new ways to meet their water quality goals. This includes preserving current intrastate nutrient trading programs that many Bay states already have in place, while also creating a voluntary interstate nutrient trading program. Additionally, this bill creates a voluntary assurance framework for farmers. The program will deem farmers to be fully in compliance with their water quality requirements as long as they have undertaken appropriate conservation activities to comply with state and federal water quality standards.

Our bill makes sure that the agencies are using common sense when regulating water quality goals for localities. Our legislation requires the regulators to take into account the availability, cost, effectiveness, and appropriateness of practices, techniques, or methods in meeting water quality goals. This will ensure that localities are not being mandated to achieve a reduction in nutrient levels by a prescribed date, when no technology exists to achieve that reduction within that timeline.

Additionally, the bill contains language that reaffirms and preserves the rights of the states to write their own water quality plans. This role has been traditionally reserved to the states but that is being threatened by the Obama Administration's policies. The Obama Administration is seeking to expand their regulatory authority by seizing authority granted to the states and converting the Bay Cleanup efforts to a process that is a top down approach with mandatory regulations. I believe that each state knows best how to manage their water quality goals; not the bureaucrats at the EPA. This legislation would restore the original intent of the Clean Water Act and reaffirm the role of the States to write their own water quality plans.

While our bill does a lot to improve water quality, we also call for more oversight over the Chesapeake Bay Program. For over 3 decades Congress has been working to preserve and protect the Chesapeake Bay. Despite the efforts of the federal, state, and local governments the health of the bay is still in peril. The participants in restoring the Bay include 10 federal agencies, six states and the District of Columbia, over one thousand localities and multiple nongovernmental organizations. This legislation would fully implement two cutting-edge management techniques, crosscut budgeting and adaptive management, to enhance coordination, flexibility and efficiency of restoration efforts. Neither technique is currently required or fully utilized in the Bay restoration efforts, where results have lagged far behind the billions of dollars spent. Further, this bill calls for a review of the EPA's Bay model. We often hear complaints from those who make good faith efforts to restore the Bay that their efforts are not being recognized by EPA's Bay model. EPA's model does not account for any voluntary measures being under-

taken on farms to control nitrogen and phosphorous nor does it even account for some of the nitrogen and phosphorous reductions that are being achieved through government programs like USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Effectively, EPA is ignoring nutrient reductions that have already been achieved. Our legislation requires that an independent evaluator assess and make recommendations to alter EPA's Bay model, so that we can develop a model that will capture all of the nutrient reductions that are happening in the Bay.

Mr. Speaker, the people who call the Bay Watershed home are the ones who are the most concerned about protecting and restoring the Chesapeake Bay. Unfortunately, too often these hardworking individuals are cast as villains and placed in a position where restoring the Bay is pitted against the economic livelihoods of their communities. We can restore the Bay while also maintaining the economic livelihood of these communities. The Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization and Improvement Act is the way we can do both. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Congress, so that we can pass this important legislation and work to restore the Chesapeake Bay.

TRIBUTE TO LT. CMDR. DALE T. TAYLOR, USCG

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Dale T. Taylor, age 36, and to honor his heroic and tireless service to our country.

Lt. Cmdr. Taylor was one of four U.S. Coast Guard crewmen aboard a MH-65C Dolphin helicopter when it crashed into Mobile Bay on February 28, 2012, during an evening training mission. The accident claimed the lives of each of the crew.

Lt. Cmdr. Taylor, a rescue pilot and father of two young sons, was stationed at the Aviation Training Center in Mobile, Alabama. He and his family are active members of Cottage Hill Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon.

An accomplished pilot who was devoted to saving lives, Lt. Cmdr. Taylor received the Coast Guard Medal in 2003 for heroism while heading a rescue mission near Key West, Florida. According to the award citation quoted by the Mobile Press-Register, Lt. Cmdr. Taylor braved rough seas to rescue a victim. "Despite jeopardizing his own safety, Lieutenant Taylor grabbed the victim and with all his remaining strength swam to the basket and lifted the exhausted survivor to safety shortly before the survivor would have surely succumbed to the seas."

Lt. Cmdr. Taylor and his fellow crewmen of CG-6535 each shared a love of service and a dedication to saving lives. The Coast Guard is a vital protector for our nation's coastal communities. We can never thank them enough for their commitment to our country.

Mobile is a Coast Guard city and we suffer the loss of Lt. Cmdr. Taylor as one of our own. We grieve with his family and we stand with them and the entire United States Coast Guard family.

To quote the words of the Coast Guard hymn,

Eternal Father, Lord of hosts,
Watch o'er the men who guard our coasts.
Protect them from the raging seas
And give them light and life and peace.
Grant them from Thy great throne above
The shield and shelter of Thy love.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and a grateful nation, I offer condolences to Lt. Cmdr. Taylor's, wife, Teresa, and their sons, Evan and Emmett, as well as other family and many friends. You are each in our thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO OAK KNOLL VILLA AND THE RETIREMENT HOUSING FOUNDATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Oak Knoll Villa Apartments in my district in San Antonio. Oak Knoll Villa is a member of the Retirement Housing Foundation, and they will join in celebrating the foundation's 50 years of service to the community on March 13, 2012.

The Retirement Housing Foundation is a non-profit organization of 159 communities in 24 states, Washington, DC, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, providing housing and services to more than 17,000 older adults, low income families, and persons with disabilities.

Throughout the past 50 years the foundation has fostered an environment in which team members work to make life better for thousands of San Antonians. This pinnacle achievement speaks to both the past laurels and future service of Oak Knoll Villa. Oak Knoll Villa strives to provide all persons with quality, affordable housing so that San Antonio families do not have to sacrifice paying the rent for other basic necessities.

The noble mission of the Retirement Housing Foundation is as important today as it was 50 years ago. Its impact on our communities cannot be understated. I would again ask you to congratulate Oak Knoll Villa and the Retirement Housing Foundation on their 50 years of fostering and ensuring that low-income families and individuals.

HONORING REGIS HIGH SCHOOL REACH PROGRAM'S 10 YEAR AN- NIVERSARY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 10 year anniversary of the Recruiting Excellence in Academics for Catholic High Schools, or the REACH program, an innovative program devised and operated by Regis High School in my district for low income middle school students to prepare them for acceptance into the elite private, Catholic and public high schools in New York City.

Regis High School was founded in 1914 as a 100 percent scholarship school and con-

tinues this fine tradition today. In that spirit Regis began the REACH program ten years ago to help low income middle school students to excel in their studies to allow them to not only attend the best high schools, but eventually the best colleges and universities in the country. Students from the REACH program have gone on to attend MIT, Boston College, Cornell, Williams and the University of Scranton.

The REACH program is a study in what can be achieved if students are given the proper tools to excel. Students attend a six week summer program, Saturday sessions in both the spring and fall and engage in an independent research program in the winter. During each of these phases students are not only tutored to excel academically but are also provided with leadership training, a student mentor from Regis and eventually placement services into the best high schools in New York City.

Ninety-six percent of students who participate in the REACH program have gone on to a four year institution of higher learning, many of whom are the first in their family to attend college. The REACH program can be used as an example for all of us that by giving students the appropriate tools they will excel.

I want to congratulate Regis on their wonderful success and wish them even greater success in the next ten years.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$ 10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,499,023,629,682.44. We've added \$4,872,146,580,769.36 to our debt in 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PROTECTING ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN HIGHER EDUCATION ACT, H.R. 2117

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the amendment to H.R. 2117 proposed by the gentleman from Colorado. This amendment would require the Secretary of Education to present this body with a plan to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of Federal financial aid dollars.

I was regrettably detained and unavailable to vote on the following amendment to H.R. 2117.

Rep. Polis (CO) Amendment #5: Would require the Secretary to present a plan to prevent waste, fraud and abuse to ensure effective use of taxpayer dollars. Had I been present to vote I would have voted "yes" on Amendment #5.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION SMALL CONDUIT HYDROPOWER DEVELOP- MENT ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2842) to authorize all Bureau of Reclamation conduit facilities for hydropower development under Federal reclamation law, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I strongly support the installation of small scale hydropower in water canals, pipelines and other Bureau of Reclamation facilities. A small investment could go a long way in helping farmers and rural communities produce homegrown energy to help power their farms and irrigation systems and even sell power to the grid. The Three Sisters Irrigation District in Oregon is pursuing such a project, which could eventually create over 3 kilowatts of clean renewable power for the local community.

These innovative projects should move along as quickly as possible. Because they would be installed in existing facilities, extensive environmental review is not needed. However, I cannot support this bill because it includes an unnecessary waiver of the National Environmental Policy Act. Environmental review for these projects can be expedited through the existing process, which allows categorical exemptions by the appropriate federal agency. A blanket exemption to NEPA would set a bad precedent, and history has shown that short-circuiting environmental and public reviews typically delays rather than assists project development.

I supported an amendment by Rep. NAPOLITANO that would have struck language in the bill that waives NEPA. Because this amendment did not pass, I must reluctantly vote no. However, I stand ready to work with my colleagues to promote development of small conduit hydropower without undermining environmental safeguards.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN DONALD PAYNE

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Congressman DONALD PAYNE.

Today, we lost a dear colleague and friend in the House of Representatives, and the American people lost a dedicated leader. I am honored to have served with Congressman PAYNE, and am deeply saddened by his passing.

DONALD spent his life fighting for those less fortunate, and was a committed advocate for education, civil rights, and social justice—both at home and abroad. He was a humanitarian in the truest sense of the word, and his passion was both inspiring and contagious. As the first, and only, African-American from New Jersey elected to Congress, DONALD was a

trailblazer. His achievements are a testament to the hard work, patience, and determination that became the hallmark of DONALD PAYNE'S career in public service.

As a senior member of the Education and Workforce Committee, DONALD was a steady and effective representative for working men and women across America. His efforts on their behalf led to tangible gains in the areas of worker health and safety. DONALD also lent his voice in support of early education, working tirelessly to ensure that every American child receives a first-class education, regardless of financial circumstance.

As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, DONALD won the admiration and respect of his colleagues for his extensive and unrivaled knowledge of international affairs, especially concerning Africa. His humanitarian efforts to secure international aid for populations ravaged by war and disease are a tribute to his compassion and unwavering resolve to improve the lives of the downtrodden. Madam Speaker, DONALD's legacy and long list of accomplishments will continue to provide a lasting example for my colleagues and I going forward. My sincere condolences go out to DONALD's family, friends, staff, and constituents. He will be missed in this House.

RECOGNIZING GREGORY P.
SCHAFER

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Gregory P. Schaffer for his distinguished service to the Government of the United States as the Assistant Secretary for Cybersecurity and Communications, National Protection and Programs Directorate, Department of Homeland Security, from May 2009 until March 2012.

Mr. Schaffer is a national leader in the area of cybersecurity and communications. His unique perspective, dedication, and focus on identifying solutions to complex problems enabled the Department of Homeland Security and the Nation to take critical strides during his tenure.

Mr. Schaffer brought to DHS a blend of technical knowledge, private sector understanding, and Federal prosecution experience that enriched its cybersecurity and communications efforts.

Mr. Schaffer's leadership was essential in leading DHS efforts related to proposals for a Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network. With the passage of recent legislation, Mr. Schaffer's concepts and structures have the potential to result in a paradigm shift in public safety communications.

During his tenure, DHS developed the National Cyber Incident Response Plan, NCIRP, the framework for incident response capabilities and coordination among Federal agencies, state and local governments, the private sector and international partners during significant cyber incidents. With the development of this plan, our Nation is postured to more effectively and comprehensively respond to the full range of cyber incidents.

As Chair of the Unified Coordination Group established by the NCIRP, Mr. Schaffer led

the United States Government response to a number of critical cyber incidents impacting the public and private sectors as well as international partners.

Under Mr. Schaffer's leadership and direction, DHS also opened the new National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center—a 24-hour, DHS-led coordinated watch and warning and mitigation center that enhanced capabilities to address threats and incidents affecting the Nation's critical information technology and cyber infrastructure.

This Center leverages the Einstein program, a set of perimeter defenses around the ".gov" domain designed to detect, alert, and prevent intrusions into and data loss from Federal agency networks. Because of Mr. Schaffer's leadership, Einstein 2—which provides signature-based intrusion detection technology—is currently deployed and operational at 17 of 19 Federal agencies.

Mr. Schaffer also oversaw effective and diverse incident response activities across his cybersecurity and communications portfolio. In FY 2011 alone, the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team responded to more than 100,000 incident reports and released more than 5,000 actionable cybersecurity alerts and information products. The National Coordinating Center for Telecommunications and the National Communications System also led, in accordance with the National Response Framework's Emergency Support Function #2, communications response activities for the New England floods, Hurricane Irene, the 2011 Japanese Tsunami, the 2010 Haiti Earthquake, and other significant national and international disasters.

Furthermore, Mr. Schaffer led activities to expand information sharing with the private sector through the Cybersecurity Information Sharing and Collaboration Program. He also supported development of tools to help private sector companies assess and improve their own network security, such as the Cyber Security Evaluation Program, CSEP, and the Cyber Security Evaluation Tool, CSET.

We are grateful for his service during a consequential period at the Department, and I look forward to his continuing contributions to the security of our great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO LTJG THOMAS JOHN
CAMERON, USCG

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to U.S. Coast Guard LTJG Thomas John Cameron, age 24, of Portland, Oregon and to honor his service to our country.

LTJG Cameron was one of four U.S. Coast Guard crewmen aboard an MH-65C Dolphin helicopter when it crashed into Mobile Bay on February 28, 2012, during an evening training mission. The accident claimed the lives of each of the crew.

A 2009 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, LTJG Cameron was stationed at the Coast Guard's Aviation Training Center in Mobile, Alabama at the time of the accident.

According to the Mobile Press-Register, LTJG Cameron was only two days from completing flight certification at the time of the ac-

cident. After leaving Mobile, he was to have been assigned to USGC Station Borinquen at San Juan, Puerto Rico.

LTJG Cameron was known to his family, classmates and friends as a passionate athlete. He was an accomplished soccer player, serving as captain of his high school and college teams. Off the field, his passion also extended to helping others. His father, John Cameron, told the newspaper that his son's goal since 10th grade was to be involved in "lifesaving work."

It is not surprising to learn that LTJG Cameron and his fellow crewmen of CG-6535 each shared a love of service and a dedication to saving lives. The Coast Guard is a vital protector for our nation's coastal communities. We can never thank them enough for their commitment to our country.

Mobile is a Coast Guard city and we suffer the loss of LTJG Cameron as one of our own. We grieve with his family and we stand with them and the entire United States Coast Guard family.

To quote the words of the Coast Guard hymn,

Eternal Father, Lord of hosts,
Watch o'er the men who guard our coasts.
Protect them from the raging seas
And give them light and life and peace.
Grant them from Thy great throne above
The shield and shelter of Thy love.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and a grateful nation, I offer condolences to LTJG Cameron's parents, John and Bette Cameron, as well as to his extended family and many friends. You are each in our thoughts and prayers.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISH-
MENTS OF LOIS WAGONER

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge Lois Wagoner, a loving mother, dedicated civil servant, and a truly great Hoosier. This week, Lois is being honored for her 50 years of service to the Military and Veterans Regional Office in Indianapolis. Lois began her career as a clerk in 1961 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and worked at various military installations prior to coming to the VA in 1971 as a program support clerk in the Finance Division of the Indianapolis Regional Office. In 1974, she was promoted to be a Veterans Benefits Counselor and supervised the regional office telephone unit. By 1990, she had become the Congressional Liaison and has worked tirelessly with every Congressional office in Indiana to ensure the welfare of our returning heroes.

During her 50 years of service, Lois has earned the reputation of being one of the most loyal, kind, and honest advocates of our Veterans living in Indiana. She also has the great distinction of being the mother of a Lieutenant Colonel with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan, so while she has been serving at the VA, she did so with the rare empathy of someone keenly aware of not only the sacrifices of our brave service members defending freedom abroad, but the daily concerns of their family members here at home.

The pride in service Lois has exhibited during her career is only eclipsed by her dedication to her family. Her other son lives close by and is a local meat cutter for Kroger. She has eight grandsons and one granddaughter and one great granddaughter.

It is with great honor that I extend hearty congratulations to Lois for her tireless service. She will always have a special place in the hearts of all those who have had the opportunity to work with her over the years, most especially the countless veterans whose lives she has touched.

Congratulations Lois.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to join my colleagues in celebrating National School Breakfast Week 2012.

I don't have to tell anyone that 2011 was another year of difficult economic struggles for American households. Too many families are struggling to put food on the table. And when they do, kids suffer the most.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in 2010, 48.8 million Americans lived in households that had difficulty putting food on the table. That figure includes as many as 16 million children living in a home where food is not always available. Even worse, in over 380,000 households, one or more children did not get enough to eat—they had to cut the size of their meals, skip meals, or even go whole days without food at some time during the year.

When asked by the Gallup organization in a recent food hardship survey, "Have there been times in the last twelve months when you did not have enough money to buy food that you or your family needed?" more people answered "Yes" in the last six months of 2011 than in any period since the fourth quarter of 2008.

In broad swaths of the country, more than one in six households answered the Gallup question "Yes." In fact, at least one in six said "Yes" in more than half of all Congressional districts (269 of 436 congressional districts.) In my district, according to the survey, the food hardship rate is 23 percent, almost one in four households. That is heartbreaking and even more so when you think that nearly 80 of my colleagues represent districts with even higher rates.

Thirty-seven million people—one in eight Americans—receive emergency food assistance each year through the Nation's food banks, a 46 percent increase in clients served from 2006.

As a result, public efforts to help meet this basic need are even more important. As the recession's grip takes firm hold, for millions of vulnerable children around our Nation, federally-supported school breakfast programs continue to be a lifeline.

The School Breakfast program began in 1966 as a two-year pilot program. It has become a valuable program that makes a difference every day in the lives of millions of children. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that pro-

viding availability, accessibility, and participation in the school breakfast program are some of the best ways to support the health and educational potential of children, particularly low-income children.

Eating breakfast has been shown to improve math, reading, and standardized test scores. Breakfast helps children pay attention, perform problem-solving tasks, and improves memory. Children who eat school breakfast are likely to have fewer absences and incidents of tardiness than those who do not. By eating breakfast, students get more important nutrients, vitamins and minerals such as calcium, dietary fiber, and protein. These are just a few of the known benefits.

The School Breakfast Program can readily be tailored to meet the needs of all different age groups, school schedules and physical environments. Schools use many creative service options in addition to traditional breakfast service in the cafeteria, such as Breakfast in the Classroom, Grab 'n' Go Carts and Mid-morning Nutrition Breaks.

This year, the School Breakfast Week theme is "School Breakfast—Go for the Gold," highlighting how eating a balanced breakfast at school can help students shine. In FY 2011 over 12 million children were able to get a nutritious school meal because of this program. In my State of Wisconsin, school breakfast participation rates have increased from 135,000 in FY 2009 to 166,000 in FY 2011, the vast majority receiving free or reduced price nutritious breakfast to jump start their school day. However, participation in the breakfast comparison lags compared to the approximately 32 million who participate in the National School Lunch Program.

Most school breakfast program students lived in impoverished families and received free or reduced price meals. For the 2009–2010 school year, to receive a free breakfast, the student needed to reside in a household earning \$23,803 or less for a family of three (130 percent of the federal poverty level). For reduced price, the threshold was \$33,874 (185 percent of the federal poverty level.)

Efforts to make this program work better continue and they should. Last month, the Administration released new child nutrition rules—as required by Congress in the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010—that seek to make the same kind of changes many parents are already trying to teach their children at home. The new rule updates school meal standards to increase fruits, vegetables, whole grain, and low-fat dairy while reducing fats, sodium and sugars. This is a long overdue step that will get healthier foods on school plates each day. USDA built the new rule around recommendations from an Institute of Medicine expert panel, updated with key changes from the 2010 Dietary Guidelines. Getting the science right is critical to better nutrition and health for our children.

Additionally, the President's FY 2013 budget request includes \$35 million for school meal equipment grants to help school districts purchase the equipment needed to serve healthier meals, and improved food safety. These equipment grants would support the establishment or expansion of the School Breakfast Program. Lack of adequate kitchen equipment has been cited as a reason why schools are not able to initiate or expand their breakfast programs. Congress needs to support such initiatives.

In the spirit of National Breakfast Week, I would encourage my colleagues—and in fact, all Americans—to participate in activities like the Share Your Breakfast campaign to combat child hunger. The Share Your Breakfast campaign—which brings together Action for Healthy Kids, the Kellogg Company, and other partners—is focused on ensuring more kids have access to breakfast by increasing participation in school breakfast programs. This campaign is only in its second year, but has already offered assistance to nearly 100 schools in 26 states.

This year's goal is to provide one million breakfasts to American school children who might otherwise go without. Programs like Share Your Breakfast are to be commended and help highlight the vital role that a nutritious breakfast plays in promoting educational success.

Mr. Speaker, a growing number of Americans are going hungry and federal safety-net nutrition programs, like the School Breakfast Program, are playing a crucial role in helping hardworking families, including their children, stay nourished.

Let me conclude, Mr. Speaker, by saying that though our country is in the midst of a tough economic time, I hope there remains bipartisan support for this simple statement: no child in our community or across the country should ever go through the school day hungry. The School Breakfast Program is critical to making that a reality.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in highlighting the value and success of this program and those who work every day to make sure that our future leaders, our future engineers, and scientists, and politicians or whatever else boys and girls across our Nation want to be, won't be stopped because of a growling stomach and nagging hunger.

PROCLAIMING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PATRICIA NIXON'S BIRTH IN ELY, NEVADA ON MARCH 16, 2012

HON. MARK E. AMODEI

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the birth of Thelma Catherine "Pat" Ryan Nixon in Ely, Nevada.

Pat was born the youngest of four children on March 16th, 1912, in the small mining town of Ely, Nevada to William M. Ryan, Sr., a sailor, gold miner, and truck farmer of Irish descent and Katherine Halberstadt, a German immigrant. Thelma Catherine Ryan was nicknamed "Pat" because of her Irish heritage. In fact, the family always celebrated her birthday on the Irish holiday of St. Patrick's Day, March 17th.

Pat and her family moved to a small town near Los Angeles when she was just a year old. She grew up with typical Western self-sufficiency. It has often been said that the mining community in Ely and her family's own straitened circumstances helped mold her into the strong person that she became.

Upon enrolling in college in 1931, she unofficially dropped her given name Thelma, replacing it with Pat and occasionally rendering

it as Patricia. On June 21, 1940, Pat married Richard Milhouse Nixon at Mission Inn, Riverside, California. The two met while they were performing in a theater production of "The Dark Tower." During World War II, she worked as a government economist while Richard served in the Navy. She campaigned tirelessly alongside her husband as he ran for Congress, the Senate, and, later, the Vice Presidency.

On January 20th, 1969, Richard Milhouse Nixon was sworn in as the 37th President of the United States. Pat became First Lady, the first, and so far only, woman from Nevada to serve in that role.

While in the White House, Pat publicly advocated for women to become more involved in the political process. She also used her position as First Lady to encourage volunteer service, opened the White House to more visitors, and added 600 paintings and antiques to the White House collection. She also traveled extensively, earning the unique diplomatic standing of "Personal Representative of the President."

Patricia Nixon passed away on June 22, 1993, and is buried at the Richard Nixon Birthplace and Museum in Yorba Linda, California.

March 16, 2012, marks the 100th anniversary of Patricia Nixon's birth in Ely, Nevada. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and recognizing the varied, significant contributions that Pat Nixon made throughout her life, particularly as the First Lady of the United States.

IN RECOGNITION OF LANCE CORPORAL MARK FIDLER AND FAMILY

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a real American hero, United States Marine Mark Fidler, who hails from my congressional district in Berks County, Pennsylvania. On October 3, 2011, while on foot patrol in Afghanistan, an IED exploded next to Lance Corporal Fidler, nearly killing him. He lost both legs above the knee and suffered extensive internal injuries. He survived, largely due to his brothers in arms and a British air unit that got him to the Bastion marsh unit in record time. His parents, Stacy and Kermit Fidler, have put their lives on hold to be by his side night and day. Families are the quiet heroes who make such a huge difference in the recoveries of our soldiers. I ask that this poem, written by Albert Caswell in honor of those loving parents, be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

WRITTEN ON YOUR SOUL

All that we so have . . .
All that we so hold . . .
All that we so are . . .
Of which so means the most . . .
Is but so written, all on our souls . . .
As is yours Mark, something special to behold!
But, so lies something far much more precious than mere gold . . .
As is so etched upon your heart be told . . .
As lies something far much more greater than you could ever know . . .
Setting you apart from all the rest, all in what your fine heart so holds . . .

'Oh, but To Be One of America's Finest . . .
but, Her Very Best!

A Uh . . . Raaaa Jar Head . . . As a United States Marine, no less . . .

As is so written upon your soul, as was etched . . .

To go off to war, to our nation's freedom's to insure . . .

And to so face death no less!

How can one ask for more?

As our nation Mark, you and your family have so blessed!

Than, to lose half of you . . . your best . . .

And yet somehow you would so cheat death . . .

No, you are not half the man you used to be, for you sum has grown far much greater . . . see!

As when courage comes to crest, to so teach us all the more!

To so reach deep down inside your heart of courage . . . Amor!

As my son Mark, our world you have so blessed!

As you've come back from such heartache, and such sure death!

Is that not what heaven is so for?

As somehow, your fine soul will not give up or in . . .

All in its most courageous quest, as we so see where its take you, from where you have been!

To but rebuild again, when This Pride of Pennsylvania . . .

Had almost nothing left . . .

As Mark, you bring The Angels up in heaven to tears at your behest!

And all in our Lord's heart Mark, you are now so caressed!

And if ever I have a son,

I wish he could be like you this one . . .

All because of what is now so etched upon your soul!

As your great faith and courage and strength, is but something to behold!

As now so etched!

For Heaven so awaits all of those who give their very best!

Who so freely are so ready to give up their fine lives, all in freedom's quest!

Who all upon their souls such magnificence is so etched!

So etched with such Strength In Honor, and Faith so no less . . .

All in your shades of green, Mark you are one hell of a United States Marine!

Who our nation has so blessed!

Yes, arms and legs we all need . . . But we can get by . . .

But, without a heart and soul like yours Mark, we will surely die . . .

And Mark its up In Heaven, where you need not even eyes . . .

And that's where your going one day Mark, when you rise!

With but tears in your eyes . . .

And in the coming years, it all seems so very clear . . .

That, you have so much more to etch . . . All with you fine heart as left!

Moments, are all that we so have!

Minutes, only to hearts so grab!

To this our world to so bless!

As all written upon our souls as etched!

What, have we so written . . . As we grow old?

What, have we done that which is so worthy to behold?

What, have we so given . . . That which is far much more precious than mere gold?

That now so lies, all etched upon our souls! As have you Mark, so bestowed!

UH . . . RRRRAH, Jar Head . . .

All in what your fine life has said, and so continues to so grow!

All so written, so on your soul!

TRIBUTE TO SAN ANTONIO ART LEAGUE AND MUSEUM

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the San Antonio Art League and Museum in celebration of their 100th anniversary.

The San Antonio Art League and Museum is the oldest arts organization in the city of San Antonio, Bexar County, and surrounding counties in the State of Texas. The museum was founded by Mrs. Henry Drought, who served as president of the organization for 25 years. Mrs. Henry Drought's mission was to foster knowledge of and interest in art in this area of Texas by means of exhibitions, lectures, and classes. Additionally she firmly believed in the encouragement of local artists in order to create and provide an avenue to display and promote the museum's mission. As a result, the San Antonio Art League and Museum has acquired and preserved more than 400 pieces of art from all across Texas. The museum continues to promote artists from Bexar County and the surrounding areas through its many activities, including promoting talented young art students at a collegiate art exhibition.

Art has always stood as an essential form of expression, communication, and cultural appreciation, and it has been extremely important to the cultural development of our community. I would again ask you to congratulate the San Antonio Art League and Museum for enriching the community of San Antonio for the past 100 years.

TRIBUTE TO PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS ANDREW KNIGHT, USCG

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Andrew Knight, age 26, of Thomasville, Alabama and to honor his devoted service to our country.

Petty Officer Knight, known by his family and friends as "Drew", was one of four U.S. Coast Guard crewmen aboard a MH-65C Dolphin helicopter when it crashed into Mobile Bay on February 28, 2012, during an evening training mission. The accident claimed the lives of each of the crew.

A native of Southwest Alabama, Petty Officer Knight was stationed at the Aviation Training Center in Mobile, Alabama where he served as a flight mechanic.

Petty Officer Knight and his fellow crewmen of CG-6535 each shared a love of service and a dedication to saving lives. The Coast Guard is a vital protector for our nation's coastal communities. We can never thank them enough for their commitment to our country.

I recently visited with Drew's parents to personally extend my deep sympathy for their tremendous loss. As I conveyed to them, growing up in Camden, which is not far from Thomasville, I know the Drew Knights of the world

are the ones that stand out in any setting—church, school, community, and country.

South Alabama suffers the loss of Petty Officer Drew Knight, a native son who loved his country and helping others. We grieve with his family and we stand with them and the entire United States Coast Guard family.

To quote the words of the Coast Guard hymn,

Eternal Father, Lord of hosts,
Watch o'er the men who guard our coasts.
Protect them from the raging seas
And give them light and life and peace.
Grant them from Thy great throne above
The shield and shelter of Thy love.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and a grateful nation, I offer condolences to Petty Officer Knight's mother and father, Ken and Becky Knight, his brother, Todd, as well as his extended family and many friends. You are each in our thoughts and prayers.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MICA CORPORATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the 50th anniversary of MICA Corporation—a family-owned company based in Fort Worth, Texas. Back in 1962, two ambitious men named Mickey Stewart and Cayce Tubb had a vision for their futures and a plan for success. Together, they established the MICA Corporation to perform highway guard-rail contract work. Over the years, MICA Corporation has remained on the cutting edge of Texas highway construction and become a well-known and highly respected state-wide company. L.C. Tubb, son of co-founder Cayce Tubb and the current owner of MICA Corporation, has flown all of his employees to Washington, DC to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this great company. I am very proud of what this company has accomplished over the years and pleased that it calls Fort Worth home. Today, I want to welcome L.C. and the many dedicated employees of MICA Corporation to Washington, DC. I want to congratulate everyone at MICA Corporation on achieving this milestone, and wish them many, many more years of success.

ESSAY BY LESLIE LOPEZ

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great Nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Leslie Lopez is a junior at Pasadena Memorial High School in Harris County, Texas. Her essay topic is: Select an important event that has occurred in the past 50 years and explain how that event has changed our country. Leslie chose September 11th, 2001.

September eleventh is a day that will be remembered for ages to come by citizens in our nation. The long-lived memorable event marked not only the lives of the people, but our entire country as a whole. The attacks of that date affected the nation's economy, took our peace of mind, and caused us to enforce anti-terrorism policies that till this day have not changed.

The attacks had a significant economic impact on the United States and world markets. The stock exchange remained closed for several days in the aftermath; the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell significantly; in only three months after the occurrence, nearly 430,000 jobs were lost as well as millions of dollars in wages. The small businesses in Lower Manhattan were affected as well. A staggering 18,000 of those were destroyed or replaced, resulting in a loss of jobs and wages. The events of September eleventh most definitely left its mark on the nation's economy.

The tragedy also affected the country's peace of mind. People felt as if not even homes or schools were then longer safe. Recalling back to that date, I was only a child and could not understand why every adult parent and teacher seemed paranoid at what was happening in New York. What seemed like weeks after went by and the occurrence was still fresh on everyone's minds. Till this day, citizens have not completely reinstated that peace of mind they once had, and it will continue to be this way for years to come.

With the 9-11 attacks came new anti-terrorism policies which did not exist prior to the date. The Department of Homeland Security, for example, was created a couple of years after the occurrence to protect the states against terrorism activity. The attacks also indirectly caused the War in Afghanistan as an effort to dismantle the al-Qaeda terrorist organization, which was also set into motion only a month after the attacks on the World Trade Center.

The changes that the 9-11 attacks caused brought drastic changes to the United States and the grand scheme of things, the economy, our peace of mind, and the anti-terrorism policies that were adopted were only a small portion of all that the attacks affected.

IN CELEBRATION OF REVEREND DR. WENDELL ANTHONY'S 25TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise and I ask my colleagues to join me today to salute Reverend Dr. Wendell Anthony on the occasion of his 25th Anniversary as Pastor of Fellowship Chapel in Detroit, Michigan.

In 1987, Reverend Dr. Wendell Anthony was installed as senior pastor at Fellowship Chapel. From that platform, he has been an unwavering voice for those without, guiding thousands in faith. He has educated and moved many more thousands in civil rights, economics, and politics toward the pursuit of justice and righteousness. Through his work, he has had an impact on the lives of hundreds

of thousands of people throughout the city of Detroit, and, indeed, across our Nation and this globe.

In 1993, when he became President of the Detroit Branch of the NAACP, Reverend Anthony ushered in a new era of activism and strength for the largest NAACP chapter in the country. That year, he led a quarter-million people through the streets of Detroit to commemorate the 30-year anniversary of the historic 1963 Detroit March by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that took place before King's iconic March on Washington. Reverend Anthony has worked tirelessly to build connections between his congregants and the international community, particularly Africa. In addition to establishing a medical clinic in Ghana, Reverend Anthony organized a relief effort raising nearly \$1 million for food, medicine, clothing and transportation to aid hundreds of thousands of refugees in both Rwanda and Zaire in 1994. In 2000, he organized a similar relief effort for flood victims in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Reverend Anthony's work at home has been equally impressive and passionate, working on wide ranging issues of social and economic justice like insurance rates in Detroit, minority business contracting, and fairness in banking. As the former co-chair of the Detroit Fair Banking Alliance, Reverend Anthony helped to negotiate over \$7.2 billion in new lending from local banking institutions for the purpose of economic development in our region.

As founder of the Fannie Lou Hamer Political Action Committee, Reverend Anthony created an institution that provides a strong, organized and progressive voice in the political process, holding public officials accountable to work in the best interests of the African American community. As chairman and founder of the Freedom Institute for Economic, Social Justice and Empowerment, Reverend Anthony hosts the largest sit-down dinner in the world each year for leaders, activists and lay people from across the spectrum of society from education, to the law, to politics, to labor and beyond.

My colleagues, I could speak for a very long time about the good Reverend's work over the last quarter century with each accolade more impressive than the last, but I shall conclude my remarks by wishing my friend, Reverend Anthony, well and Godspeed for another quarter century, and beyond, of work in service to Christ and the community of mankind.

ESSAY BY ALLISON MOCK

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great Nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Allison Mock is a senior at Kempner High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: Why is it important to participate in the political process?

George Bernard Shaw once said, "Democracy is a device that ensures we shall be governed no better than we deserve;" this is especially true in our nation today. America has become apathetic. We no longer look for ways to actively participate in our own government. Voting in minor elections, writing letters to congressmen, and attending city council meetings to stay updated have become things of the past. In essence, we have forgotten how to be involved in the political process. This is a natural feature of our country's aging. The majority of the population does not remember that voting is a privilege, not a guarantee. We dismiss that there ever was a time when having your voice heard was almost impossible and advocating controversial opinions dangerous. The Founders of our nation and millions of soldiers died so we would never again see such a time, their sacrifices should never be taken lightly. Those heroes dreamed of a country where the people determined what the future would look like, and now we are here. However, the hard work is far from over. While the Constitution provides the foundation to build our government upon, the most important work is done by the people we elect. Our republic should be reinvented with each new generation. This makes it even more important for the majority to participate in the political process. Our system is currently lacking people to balance out the radical activists and conversely, push forward those who have stagnated in their policy. The recent retirement of leaders like Senator Stowe is compelling evidence that even leaders are frustrated by the polarization of the politically active members of society. We need everyone to participate to fully deserve a good government.

An ideal spot to start these changes would be in high schools. Although Government classes lightly touch on the importance of voting, most kids have no idea how crucial it is. A self-fulfilling prophecy occurs in their political lives; society does not expect them to care until they are older, and as a result, they don't think they need to. However, if the curriculum included more of an emphasis on not only the importance of voting, but a detailed explanation of what each party stands for and how to discern for themselves how they would like to vote, students would respond. Lists of election dates could be distributed to students and posted online. By involving social media we could reach even more of this demographic. Twitter, Facebook, my space could all have reminders to vote, information about candidates and their issues, and ways to get involved in the community it would be difficult. A similar campaign was tried in the early 2000s, but was abandoned when it did not prove imme-

diately effective. While we have more social media now, allowing the message to further penetrate, what we really need is perseverance from our leaders. We must continue to try and reach this crucial age group, because they too deserve a chance to reshape the republic and make this country even greater.

HONORING NAZARETH COLLEGE ON ITS DESIGNATION AS MILITARY FRIENDLY

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nazareth College, which I am proud to represent as part of the 29th District of the great state of New York. Nazareth College was recently recognized by the Military Advanced Education Journal as military friendly, following a concerted effort to help veteran students transition to academia.

Beginning with the hiring of Jeremy Bagley as coordinator of veteran student enrollment, Nazareth College has worked to provide more services and offerings to its veteran students. By working with the Rochester Veterans Outreach Center, Nazareth College has provided access to creative arts therapy and therapists and developed a program to train faculty and staff to help respond to veterans' needs. When the Veterans Outreach Center was forced to lay off employees due to financial pressures, Nazareth College provided oversight of its on-site clinical staff to help offset the impact of cuts to vital programs. Nazareth College continues to offer internships pairing veterans with veteran mentors as part of a broad strategy to help veteran students better handle the transition from military service to academia.

In recognition of this concerted effort by Nazareth College and in light of the rigorous criteria used by the Military Advanced Education Journal in awarding this distinction, I am pleased to recognize Nazareth College for their designation as military friendly.

ESSAY BY BAILEY ARLINGHAUS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in

the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great Nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Bailey Arlinghaus is a senior at Clements High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

Government is crucial in our lives. Without government, we would all be barbarically fighting for the limited amount of resources we have available. Government helps our society function the way it is, but just like anything else, too much of a good thing can be bad. Therefore, government intervention should be limited on our lives. Too much government control can lead to dictatorships or the government playing a "Big Brother" kind of role. This "Big Brother" type of rule would be bad in the long run because the people would lose faith in the government, so the citizens would try to find any way they can to overthrow the government. Government's role should be to help society but within its boundaries set by society. Crossing these boundaries can lead to too much government intervention in our society. I think the boundary that the government should never cross would be the boundary of the government tracking your every move and everything you do. The government's main role should be to lay down the expectations, make laws that people should follow, help society when needed, but don't interfere in society so much that it makes the people dependent on the government to run effectively. The government's role is important to how this society functions. Therefore, the government needs to let society work in a way so that it isn't making the society completely dependent on them. Every individual should be able to speak their mind, without control, to promote new ideas that better society. That can only happen with a limited government role, to make society work on its own. The government should do nothing except give a little push to society every now and then to keep it running. With this, the government isn't running our everyday lives but just helping us to be able to run it ourselves. We should all follow the government's laws but, at the same time, be able to have a mind of our own. To conclude, the government shouldn't play a huge role in our every day lives, rather a limited one, so we can be more effective on our own and be able to think for ourselves.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 8, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 13

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. Southern Command and U.S. Northern Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the report of the Independent Consultant's Review with Respect to the Department of Energy Loan and Loan Guarantee Portfolio.

SD-366

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Frederick D. Barton, of Maine, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Conflict and Stabilization Operations), and to be Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization, and William E. Todd, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia, both of the Department of State, and Sara Margalit Aviel, of California, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

SD-419

10:30 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the Freedom of Information Act, focusing on safeguarding critical infrastructure information and the public's right to know.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Carlos Pascual, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Energy Resources, John Christopher Stevens, of California, to be Ambassador to Libya, and Jacob Walles, of Delaware, to be Ambassador to the Tunisian Republic, all of the Department of State.

SD-419

Environment and Public Works
Water and Wildlife Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 810, to prohibit the conducting of invasive research on great apes, S. 1249, to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States, S. 2071, to grant the Secretary of the Interior permanent authority to authorize States to issue electronic duck stamps, S. 357, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to identify and declare wildlife disease emergencies and to coordinate rapid response to those emergencies, S. 1494, to reauthorize and amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act, S. 1266, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to build on and help coordinate funding for the restoration and protection efforts of the 4-State Delaware River Basin region, and S. 2156, to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to permit the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, to set prices for Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps and make limited waivers of stamp requirements for certain users.

SD-406

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

3 p.m.

Appropriations

Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed military construction budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of Defense and the Department of the Navy.

SD-124

MARCH 14

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Federal onshore and offshore energy development programs in the Department of the Interior.

SD-124

10 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine risk management and commodities in the 2012 farm bill.

SH-216

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine Sudan and South Sudan, focusing on independence and insecurity.

SD-419

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Congress, focusing on reform proposals for the 21st century.

SD-342

Appropriations

State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the United States Agency for International Development.

SD-226

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine ending homelessness among veterans, focusing

on Veterans' Affairs progress on its five year plan.

SR-418

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Department of Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of the Air Force.

SD-192

Appropriations

Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of Labor.

SD-138

2 p.m.

Armed Services

Personnel Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Adam E. Sieminski, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, Marcilynn A. Burke, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, and Anthony T. Clark, of North Dakota, and John Robert Norris, of Iowa, both to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

SD-366

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine issues in the prepaid card market.

SD-538

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Pamela A. White, of Maine, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Haiti, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, of Louisiana, to be Director General of the Foreign Service, and Gina K. Abercrombie-Winstanley, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Malta, all of the Department of State.

SD-419

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine managing interagency nuclear nonproliferation efforts, focusing on if nuclear materials around the world are effectively secured.

SD-342

Armed Services

Strategic Forces Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine strategic forces programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management in review of the Department of Energy budget request for fiscal year 2013; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SR-222

2:45 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of William J. Kayatta, Jr., of Maine, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, John

Thomas Fowlkes, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, Kevin McNulty, and Michael A. Shipp, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, and Stephanie Marie Rose, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Iowa.

SD-226

MARCH 15

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-G50

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian water rights, focusing on promoting the negotiation and implementation of water settlements in Indian country.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Appropriations

Legislative Branch Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Government Accountability Office, Government Printing Office, and the Congressional Budget Office.

SD-138

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Securities, Insurance and Investment Subcommittee

Housing, Transportation and Community Development Subcommittee

To hold joint hearings to examine strengthening the housing market and minimizing losses to taxpayers.

SD-538

MARCH 20

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-G50

MARCH 21

10 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine retooling government for the 21st century, focusing on the President's reorganization plan and reducing duplication.

SD-342

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations of the Mili-

tary Order of the Purple Heart, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), Non Commissioned Officers Association, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Vietnam Veterans of America, Wounded Warrior Project, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, and The Retired Enlisted Association.

SD-G50

2 p.m.

Judiciary

Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Verizon and cable deals.

SD-226

MARCH 22

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Air Force Sergeants Association, Blinded Veterans Association, American Veterans (AMVETS), Gold Star Wives, Fleet Reserve Association, Military Officers Association of America, and the Jewish War Veterans.

345, Cannon Building

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 303, to amend the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 to require the Bureau of Land Management to provide a claimant of a small miner waiver from claim maintenance fees with a period of 60 days after written receipt of 1 or more defects is provided to the claimant by registered mail to cure the 1 or more defects or pay the claim maintenance fee, S. 1129, to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to improve the management of grazing leases and permits, S. 1473, to amend Public Law 99-548 to provide for the implementation of the multispecies habitat conservation plan for the Virgin River, Nevada, and to extend the authority to purchase certain parcels of public land, S. 1492, to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in Clark County, Nevada, for the environmental remediation and reclamation of the Three Kids Mine Project Site, S. 1559, to establish the San Juan Islands National Conservation Area in the San Juan Islands, Washington, S. 1635, to designate certain lands in San Miguel, Ouray, and San Juan Counties, Colorado, as wilderness, S. 1687, to adjust the boundary of Carson National Forest, New Mexico, S. 1774, to establish the Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Management Area, to designate certain Federal land as wilderness, and to improve the management of noxious weeds in the Lewis and Clark National Forest, S. 1788, to designate the Pine Forest Range Wilderness area in Humboldt County, Nevada,

S. 1906, to modify the Forest Service Recreation Residence Program as the program applies to units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain by implementing a simple, equitable, and predictable procedure for determining cabin user fees, S. 2001, to expand the Wild Rogue Wilderness Area in the State of Oregon, to make additional wild and scenic river designations in the Rogue River area, to provide additional protections for Rogue River tributaries, S. 2015, to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to the Powell Recreation District in the State of Wyoming, and S. 2056, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain interests in Federal land acquired for the Scofield Project in Carbon County, Utah.

SD-366

MARCH 27

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services

Airland Subcommittee

To hold a hearing to examine Army modernization in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

MARCH 28

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

SeaPower Subcommittee

To receive a closed briefing on the Ohio-class Replacement Program in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SVC-217

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Margaret Bartley, of Maryland, and Coral Wong Pietsch, of Hawaii, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

SR-418

2 p.m.

Armed Services

Personnel Subcommittee

To resume hearings to examine the Active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

MARCH 29

10 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Contracting Oversight Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine contractors, focusing on how much they are costing the government.

SD-342